General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 99 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/489)*]

58/223. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000, 56/208 of 21 December 2001 and 57/268 of 20 December 2002,

Welcoming the recent progress made by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting with concern that contributions to the General Fund have not increased, while the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

Noting that the bulk of the resources contributed to the Institute is directed to the Special Purpose Grants Fund rather than to the General Fund, and stressing the need to address that unbalanced situation,

Noting also that the Institute receives no subsidy from the United Nations regular budget and that it provides training programmes to all Member States free of charge,

Reiterating that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, based on an effective coherent strategy and an effective division of work among the relevant institutions and bodies;

[1] A/58/183.

3. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States and the relevance of the training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

4. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and in this context underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of those partnerships, in particular at the country level;

5. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Institute's Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific in Hiroshima, Japan;

6. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue to ensure fair and equitable geographical distribution and transparency in the preparation of the programmes and in the employment of experts, and in this regard stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus primarily on development issues and the management of international affairs;

7. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and to increasing the contributions to the General Fund;

9. *Also encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs;

10. *Stresses* the need to take action to resolve expeditiously the issues related to the Institute's rent, debt, rental rates and maintenance costs, taking into account its financial situation, and welcomes the consideration of those issues by the Fifth Committee;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including details on the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute.

78th plenary meeting
23 December 2003